

The Indianapolis Sentinel.

VOL. XXIII--NO. 43.

INDIANAPOLIS, TUESDAY, MAY 19, 1874

WHOLE NUMBER 1,752

THE REFORM CALL.

A VOICE OF AUTHORITY.

THE ORIGIN OF THE CALL.

AN EXPLANATION FROM THE OVERSEER OF THE STATE GRANGE--HE DEFENDS THE MOVEMENT AND REBUTES THE PARTISANS.

To the Editor of the Sentinel:

Sir: Let me correct the false impression which may arise from the note of a fellow granger, published yesterday. The question of the issuing of the call was discussed by the members of the order of the late meeting, and so far as I know, fully concurred in. Brother Barnes having voluntarily taken copies of the call to his district for distribution, does himself injustice in assuming to oppose the perfectly understood wish of the farming and industrial classes. The disavowal of official action in the call by the agents suggested by Mr. Oltman, the political editor of the Farmer, was agreed to by those present at the late meeting, myself among them, because, as I understood it, the resolution was meant simply to imply that officially, the members had no authority to make the call, while, individually, very nearly all sympathized in its purpose, and that indicated as much. The call, as published, was the result of free discussion for months past among farmers and others throughout the state. The time of its promulgation was to a certain extent an accident. We had talked over the matter out of the council proceedings, and it was thought best by those who participated, that we should have the call printed and sent out to the counties. We had not intended to publish them in this behalf, and while many of them have signed the call for the proposed state convention, by far the larger proportion are ready to participate in the movement, and will do all they can for it, without considering it necessary to sign a call. A very large per centage of the newspapers of the state have wheeled to the line, too, and even those that heretofore have acted as partisan organs, have asserted their independence and indicated a disposition, or have boldly proclaimed their design, to take an active part on the right side in the approaching time delays are dangerous. The working strength of the old parties lies in thorough, complete organization, and the new movement, to prove successful, must organize as completely as the forces it has to combat. A great deal may be done by going to work in this way, and without delay. See to it that defeat comes not through neglect.

From the Indianapolis Granger.

By reference to a call in another column, signed by a number of grangers, it will be seen that another convention is to be held in this county, on the 30th of May. This convention is called for the purpose of appointing delegates to the 10th of June convention at Indianapolis.

Those who are in favor of reform in the state and general government, as well as economy in the county affairs, are kicking out of the radical traces, and though squelched in a primary meeting, are preparing to show the party who whipper in that they can no longer be controlled. They will set up shops for themselves, and commence business on their own hook.

AS OTHERS SEE IT.

From the Indianapolis (Ill.) Age.

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GLAY COUNTY COMING.

From an Occasional Correspondent of the Sentinel.

The county of Clay will be fully represented in the liberal convention. All is working lovely, we will make it warm for the old delinquent parties in this county, as the election this fall will let them know that honest men must be elected, and the one term system carried out.

SIDE BY SIDE.

(From the Morgan County Granger.)

The grangers of Illinois, in harmony with their brethren of Indiana, have fixed upon the 10th of June as the day for holding their state convention. They declare, among other purposes, a determination to form a new party and nominate a state ticket. A wise movement.

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From the Lafayette Courier.

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WABASH, IND., April 8, 1874--The season is backward, the weather fine, and farmers busy, but they left their plows and planting and held here-to-day one of the largest and most harmonious conventions that ever met in the county. Twenty-eight delegates were appointed to the people's convention on the 10th of June, and the county will be well represented by earnest men. The mass convention to-day called a delegate convention to meet on the second Saturday in June, to nominate candidates for county officers. A central committee was appointed to conduct the canvass, and this county will give no uncertain sound in October. "Moss backed" democrats and "ironclad" republicans, who have not voted together for twenty years, came side by side, all faithful of the "bloody chasm" by which they have been heretofore divided. Set Wabash county down for a people's triumph in October.

TORAZ.

From the Clark County Record.

Believing that none but honest, sober and competent persons should be placed in public trusts, and that county officers especially should be selected solely in consideration of their integrity and fitness for place, and realizing the fact that these desirable ends can not be attained in Clark county under existing circumstances, by adherence to present political organizations, we, the undersigned, respectfully invite all citizens of Clark county, respectively of party names or affiliations, who agree with us in the foregoing sentiments, and who are in favor of reformation and reform in our county and state affairs, and of the promotion of our agricultural and other industrial interests, to meet in mass convention at Charlestown, on Saturday, the 30th day of May, 1874, for the purpose of nominating candidates for the various county offices to be filled at the ensuing October election, and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before such convention. We further suggest that the people favorable to a citizens' reform ticket meet in their respective townships on Friday, May 29, for the purpose of selecting five men in each township, who shall constitute a nominating committee, and shall report a ticket for the ratification of the mass meeting on the 30th. It was expected that the signatures to the above call would be published this week, but the immense number of them rendered it impossible to do so. It is absolutely impossible for us to copy them and issue the Record this week. To illustrate, the names signed to one paper alone, circulated exclusively in Carr township, reached 142. One paper from Bethlehem township contains over fifty names, and so on. We desire those having the remaining calls to return them as soon as practicable, that we may be able to get names in type, and publish the call as full in our next issue.

FROM THE BOONVILLE ENQUIRER.

Some time ago we endorsed the mention of the name of Colonel A. T. Whitlesey, private secretary to Governor Hendricks, in connection with the nomination for secretary of state, on the democratic ticket. Firmly believing that Southern Indiana, and more especially the counties of Spencer, Madison and Hamilton, were entitled to a representative upon the ticket, we again urge the name of Colonel Whitlesey for that position. He is well qualified for the office to which he has consented to become a candidate, and eminently worthy of unquestioned integrity, and who, if chosen to fill the office, will do credit to himself and his constituency, and the interests of the whole state would be improved and faithfully attended to at the state capital. We have known him since our boyhood, and can bear testimony to his honesty and integrity as a man; his lifelong devotion to the cause of democracy, and as a man who has devoted his life to the service of the state, and who has hosts of friends who will endeavor, at the polls elsewhere, to make good all that we have said, or may say of him. In justice to this section of Indiana, we commend him to the consideration of the democracy of other portions of the state.

ROUSING THE PARTISAN MIND.

HOW THE CONVENTION IS STIRRING THE PARTY'S DRY BONES.

From the Evening News.

The impression that the farmer's or independent state convention on the 10th of June may amount to something, is beginning to find lodgment in the partisan mind. This mind is unable to conceive why men should become dissatisfied with existing relations and should seek to accomplish ends by new methods or organizations while the old parties are ready to be used, and the cry that nothing can be done in politics except through the medium of parties; although granting this to be true, it does not follow that present parties are always to be the ones and that new ones are never to be formed. Whatever strength the new party may attain, it will serve in the degree as a disorganizer in politics, and will aid to produce a condition of affairs from which must rise a party with settled principles and definite aims. The rumblings and foreshadowings of a new political party, the condition of mind presages the formation of new parties, and is only a repetition of history. The darkness is yet too deep, the lowering fog too thick to enable even the wisest to discern the landmarks. What the definite issues will be no man can tell yet. But the signs all point to a movement that will attempt to relieve the people from the burdens imposed by ignorant legislation in tariff and finance, and by the special legislation and corrupt natural monopoly produced by a long war and the uninterrupted sway of one political party.

CITIZENS, NOT PARTISANS.

From the Leavenworth Independent.

Again we say, to farmers of the West and South, organize for the political campaign! Keep your society out of the hands of political demagogues or religious fanatics. Organize as citizens, and not as partisans. Let your platform be based upon the sovereignty of the individual in all matters of conscience and morals, subject to the sole restriction, that no person shall be allowed to interfere with the peace and comfort of his neighbor. You may array the lawyers against you, for their livelihood depends upon the dissensions among the people. You may antagonize the ministry, because each sect usually measures others by its own creed, and the ministers are certain to be party organs to fight for they live, and move and have their being, by squinting at the corruption in party officials, rather than to endanger the party discipline. But the people, the honest masses who are sick and tired of the corruption in high places, who loath the christian statesmanship as exemplified in the public life of such men as Colfax, who abhor the practices of such "time honored" democratic partisans as Tweed; the men who show and the forge, those who live on a honest living, will respond with enthusiasm, to any honorable, non-partisan call made upon them by the producers of the country.

OLIVER'S SEE-SAW.

NOT THE SAME MAN.

From the Terre Haute Express.

Is this the same Senator Morton who so recently told the Senate and the country, in forcible and convincing words, that specie payment had been a burden and a hindrance to the country, and that it had been maintained, and the absence of it a help, that it had invariably brought panics, for which there was but one remedy, suspension? This can hardly be the same Morton. If the statement in the letter is correct, that the vetoed bill was the first step in the direction of specie payments taken by congress, then let us thank the president for the veto.

EAGER AMENDS.

From the Terre Haute Gazette.

We are assured from this letter that Senator Morton has been grossly libelled by the press of the country, which has been constant in and out of season, many to censure and some few to applaud his supposed advocacy of inflation and repudiation, and opposition to contraction and redemption. We hasten to make amends to him for our misapprehension of him, and we are led to infer that the common belief existing in this section that Oliver differs from the president on financial matters is all a mistake.

REPORT AVALANCHE.

From the American Advertiser.

We never could reconcile many of the distinguished senator's political commiserations with his idea of personal independence and senatorial dignity, but this last effort of his in the vaulting line far exceeds any of his former most celebrated achievements. It beats all of the rest a bow-string's length, and that is giving it great prominence.

REFORM RALLY.

THE TERRIBLE TENTH

PILING UP THE NAMES.

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY BOILING.

From an Occasional Correspondent of the Sentinel.

COLUMBUS, IND., May 13, 1874--Harwith I send another large list of signers for the call of a convention of reformers to meet in this city on the 30th of May, at which time delegates will be chosen to the 10th of June convention at Indianapolis. This list makes nearly 800 signatures sent from this county, and still the work is going forward with large lists coming in daily. Of one thing we feel assured, whatever strength may be developed by the reformers in other portions of the state it is a fixed fact that this fall the voters of Bartholomew county will do a work of which they may justly be proud--that work will be the complete rout and demoralization of the "ring" and the candidates and the selection of men for office, not "office by men," as is too often the case as politics are now run. That the movement is making itself felt in this vicinity is manifest by the fact and in the part of the candidates already brought before the people by the recent convention held in this city. The majority of the names following are the names of old-time democrats, but the movement is largely reducing the ranks of both the old parties.

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JOINING FORCES.

The Farmer's Call Supplemented

A NEW BODY APPEAL TO THE PEOPLE.

THE FARMER'S ASSOCIATION--A CALL FOR CO-OPERATION.

The following was unanimously adopted in a large meeting of grangers and clubs May 6:

The Monroe County Farmer's Club sends greetings to the farmers of the State of Indiana:

Believing that the interest of agriculture, the wealth and prosperity of the state, and the public welfare would be promoted by an open and general organization of the farmers of the state, to the end of securing a fuller discussion and more thorough understanding of the important questions now agitating the public mind. We do therefore earnestly invite all clubs, granges, agricultural and horticultural societies, in every county of the state to appoint and accredit one delegate for each 100 members or fractional part thereof to meet in general convention on the 9th day of May next, at Indianapolis, for the purpose of organizing a State Farmers' Association. The successful work of the Illinois Farmers' Association in the demonstration of monopolies and the promotion of political reform attests the overwhelming and irresistible power of co-operative and harmonious action. We earnestly trust that the same success may be accorded to the convention called for June 10, as the objects of both meetings are identical in letter and spirit.

WAYNE COUNTY FARMERS.

What a glorious valley! Rich with strong and honest people, and with a noble and independent spirit.

Farmer's Club No. 8, at the first May 7th meeting, 1874, passed without dissent, the accompanying preamble and resolutions, and instructed its secretary to present the same to the Richmond papers and the Indianapolis Sentinel for publication:

WHEREAS the political leaders of the state have rendered themselves guilty of wanton disregard of the laws of the land, and have acted as if the laws had binding force, only for those who are governed and not for those who govern;

WHEREAS they have stood in the way of necessary investigations, and independent reforms, precluding the possibility of a free and honest administration of public affairs; thus seeking to bind the understanding of the people; and

WHEREAS they are striving to maintain themselves in power by corrupt means, by an unscrupulous employment of the authority which rightfully belongs to the people, and are in the midst of the most corrupt and dishonest system of political "treachery," "chicanery" and "lobbying," the fees and salaries of politicians, and the enormous expenditures for electioneering, and the heavy national debt, whenever a consideration of justice, honesty, economy and the demands of the people are considered, there should be a reform.

Resolved, That we concede the equality of all before the law, and maintain that it is the duty of government to mete out equal and exact justice to all, irrespective of race, color or religion, religious or political.

Resolved, That the primary object of free government is the protection of the individual property and that the laws should be faithfully administered to secure this; and

Resolved, That we are in favor of political reform, to that end we demand honesty, economy and purity of official life.

Resolved, That we disclaim and utterly repudiate all "politics" and "treachery," to the victors belong the spoils; making the evil service of the government a mere instrument of personal ambition, of selfish and voracious greed, a scandal, disgrace and reproach on our free institutions; and

Resolved, That we are in favor of civil service, and that we will support the only honest and economical method of selecting public officers.

Resolved, That we will let the office seek the man instead of the man the office, and will select for all offices, honest, capable and incorruptible men, and that we will use just criticism at the ballot box, and support none but those who are true to the interests and welfare of the people.

Resolved, That we ask the people to unite and act with us at the polls, and aid in arresting the progress of the corrupt and dishonest political machine, as it becomes more and more the duty of all good citizens to require a strict adherence to the faithful compliance with the principles upon which our political institutions rest.

Resolved, That in the corrupt "credit money" system, the "land grab," the "greenback" and other cabals, combinations, steals, frauds, tricks, ruses, and swindles, by which the country and republican legislators, congressmen and office holders, have enriched themselves, impoverished the country, defrauded the people, and have made the people, we find the importance of independent and decisive action, and the necessity of united effort, and cordially invite all men, of whatever class, occupation, business, profession, trade or vocation, regardless of past political views and affiliations to unite with us in the present reforming dynasty in the county by June 10, 1874, and appoint delegates to said convention.

Mr. T. Ross inquired if this convention intended to participate in the people's convention, called for the 10th of June, at Indianapolis, and moved that one delegate be appointed from each township to attend said 10th of June convention. Mr. J. R. Wallace moved to amend the motion of Mr. Ross by having four delegates appointed from each township, which amendment was accepted and the motion unanimously adopted. A motion was then made and adopted to allow each township to select its own delegates to the above convention, and ratified in the following gentlemen being chosen as delegates to represent this county at the 10th of June convention: Chester C. Pawling, T. H. Kirsch, David Hamilton, A. G. Beach, J. Lagro, Enos Powell, William

Russell, J. Hillegas, Dan. Fall, Liberty H. Lindsey, T. W. Logan, William Pearson, E. H. Russell, Noble township--Wm. Stone, D. R. Ridgeway, T. J. Semans, James Jackson, Pleasant--Frank Tryon, H. L. Groninger, Wm. Naber, Jacob Buzzard, Paw Schultz, David Smith, Waltz--Philip Davis, Reuben Elkenberry, John Weesner, Abraham Deal. On motion of Major Kidd, a central committee was appointed to act in the interests of the people's movement, each township to select its own members for the committee, and resulted in the choice of the following gentlemen: Noble--Major Kidd, chairman; Bauner McCowan, D. R. Ridgeway, Daniel Weesner, James Jackson, Chester--D. W. Kirschner, David Hamilton, Lagro--John Russell, Nat. Bannister, Liberty--O. P. Logan, Samuel Fowler, Pleasant--Frank Tryon, Thomas Meranda, Paw Paw--Robert Ambers, Daniel Shoemaker, Waltz--Peter H. Stusser, D. W. Stradley.

On motion, the proceedings of the convention were unanimously indorsed.

KEAN BUSINESS.

The Plaindealer comments on the above action in an emphatic way. The political skies are brightening. From all quarters come the glad tidings that the people are rising in their mighty strength, and dealing trenchant blows at the fraud, thievery and corruption that has so long held uninterupted reign over our country. They have at last been guided out of the dark paths of fanaticism, and refuse to bow humbly in obedience to party dictates. Free thought and free action are the cardinal principles of their political faith. They will no longer accept credit money, salaried grabbers, Sanborn frauds, Jayne conspirators, and a thousand other frauds that have been perpetrated under the fostering care of the present administration as the fruits of an honest government. They are determined to take into their own hands the management of our country, and most emphatically refuse to longer recognize as legitimate, the corrupt acts of their own party officials, through fear that a denial of them would reflect upon "the party." In no county in our state has this feeling taken a more definite shape than in Wabash county. The convention, on last Saturday developed an earnest and unwavering determination among the farmers to wrest from the polluted hands of an inscrupulous ring the power so long secured to itself through bribery and the most corrupt measures of political chicanery. God send them in the good work, they have commenced. The path is open and the way is bright to reform, and entirely with them rests the responsibility of effecting a reformation. To failer now is to give to the corruptionists another victory. They have no other link to the chain that has so long held you as a victim to their extravagant and corrupt rule.

POSEY PREPARED.

The Mount Vernon Democrat publishes the following call and signers which shows that old Posey County is ready and will be on hand in June.

WHEREAS, There has been a call for a Farmers' State Convention, to be held at Indianapolis the 10th of June, and

WHEREAS, We believe that the farmers of our county of Posey, the richest agricultural county in the state, should not be unrepresented in this gathering of their brethren.

Therefore, The undersigned, citizens and farmers of Posey county, unite in a call for a farmers' county mass convention, to be held at the court house, in the city of Mt. Vernon, on Saturday, May 30, 1874, said convention to select delegates to said meeting, and to transact such other business as it may see fit. Thos. Conlin, Wm. Hastings, Samuel Aldridge, Fred. Sherburne, Anderson Aldridge, Wm. Black, A. J. Aldridge, Jerry Allen, Nelson Allen, Wm. C. Curtis, Samuel Gill, Jesse Oatman, W. D. Alexander, Geo. D. Rowe, J. B. Aldridge, M. Roberts, Ezekiel Black, T. J. Truscott, Wm. Kittles, John S. Curtis, J. R. Black, Joshua Hamilton, Jos. Reeves, David Seck.

A PLATFORM PROPOSED.

From the Evansville Courier.

We are for free trade, strict construction of the constitution, we are opposed to sumptuary laws and class legislation of every kind, to monopolies, land grabs and the contraction theory of finance. We are for a greenback currency convertible with 165 government bonds. We are bitterly opposed to Grantism, Butlerism and Partisanship. We believe the people will find a way to overthrow the present corrupt administration and to re-establish purity of public affairs. We propose to help them do it. If we know anything of democratic principles we have enumerated them above, and be democratic or republican, we who run for office on that platform, shall be treated respectfully, and--if the candidate himself is unobjectionable--will be supported by us. For the farmer's rights, labor reform, a greenback currency and no national banks nor other monopolies, is the platform upon which the farmer's convention can name a ticket that will sweep the state.

MILK AND WATER.

(From the Leavenworth Star.)

The farmers' movement for a convention next month, to select candidates for the state offices, seems to be gaining headway in many parts of the country. It is being numerous signed in many counties, and the probabilities now are that it will assume such proportions as to make it anything but an object of ridicule. It lacks one element of success, however. It is the movement of the class, and not of the people, and always must fail. If there is to be a reform in politics, it must be brought about by a union of men from all classes of society. We are free to admit that a reform is needed, and we would hail it with delight, but the present movement is confined in too narrow limits. Some one must take the lead in all such efforts, and we do not deny that the farmers are just as capable to lead off as any one else, but if they anticipate and desire success, they must throw off that restricted feature, and let it be a movement of the people; they must throw open their doors.

FAILING EYESIGHT.

From the Fort Wayne Gazette.

The party which is really securing reform by the investigation and the potent condemnation of frauds and swindles of all kinds, is the republican party whose platform, planned with reform from the very inception of the organization, has been proven the basis of protection to the masses. Amid all the detracting questions which now agitate the popular mind, we confess that we see no other anchor of safety than that held out by the republican party. It has been tried and may not have been found, and let it be proved a strength in the present emergency.

KIND SOLICITUDE.

From the Ft. Wayne Sentinel.

The farmer's movement is taking definite form in Illinois. One great danger besets conventions of this kind: the probability that they will be gobbled by a few and unscrupulous and wily politicians. If this danger can be avoided, there is indeed a good prospect that something will be unfortunate for the movement if some pronounced action be not taken at the forthcoming convention.